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# THE ONE QUESTION MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED AT THE PEONY GARDENS THAN ANY OTHER —

## “WHY DON'T MY PEONIES BLOOM?”

### BELOW ARE A FEW ANSWERS

1. Drouth. They endure much drouth but there is a limit.
2. Drowning. They drown very easily.
3. There are annual bloomers, biennial, triennial, and up to octennial varieties that I have tried out.
4. Soggy, sour soil. They require well drained, mellow soil in order to do well.
5. Manure, roots, or litter in the soil, causing decay.
6. Tree roots below and bluegrass above taking all the moisture and plant food from the soil.
7. Sun scald. Some varieties especially are very susceptible to this.
8. Late spring freezing after the buds have developed to a tender stage of growth.
9. Garden nematode worms. Some soil is infested with these.
10. Sugar beet nematode worms. Some soil is infested with these.
11. Angeworms. Sometimes these become so numerous as to sour the soil.
12. Plants too old and large, causing starvation.
13. Canker rot.
14. Tip rot on roots.
15. Crown rot.
16. Planted in soil where old peonies have grown. Rotation is absolutely necessary with peonies.
17. Multi-stem. Cause unknown.
18. Cutting off blooms or tops. If you want your peonies to bloom well, buy your bouquet from the other fellow and allow your blooms to ripen and fall naturally.
19. Salt or salty water dumped on the ground, even years before.
20. Carbide, slop, wash water, or any other foul substance dumped on the ground.
21. Non-acclimation.
22. Proper modesty almost forbids the mention of one rank and very common cause of peony non-blooming and death; it is dear Fido.
23. There are other causes which as yet I have been unable to fathom. Peonies sometimes fail and I see no reason or evidence why.
24. How to cure diseased plants -- If I had one diseased peony plant and no other I might doctor it, but if I had two and one was healthy I would dig the diseased plant very carefully in order to remove every root from the soil, and burn root and top.

**Herbert F. Warren**

The Peony Gardens

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Trumbull, Nebraska

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